[19th May 1954

Removal of silt from the Willingdon Reservoir in Vriddhachalam taluk.

* 1016 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Willingdon Reservoir in Vriddhachalam taluk is filled with mud to a height of 8 feet ; and

(*b*) if so, whether there is any proposal to remove it?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) From the contour survey made in 1949 it appeared that the Willingdon Reservoir had silted up by about 4 feet.

" (*b*) As the contour survey was for the first time conducted only during 1949, the results cannot be taken as conclusive and further surveys have to be made in future years and the results studied before the question of removal of silt from the tank is considered, as clearance of silt in the case of tanks and reservoirs is not usually undertaken as it is prohibitively costly and impracticable."

Permission to collect bus fares over and above the maximum fare already prescribed.

* 1017 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from any association of bus operators in Malabar requesting permission to collect the surcharge from the travelling public; and

(*b*) if so, whether any instructions have been issued thereon to the departmental subordinates and if not, what other action if any, has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

The Malabar Bus Owners' Association adressed the Government in October 1953 for issuing a direction about collection of bus fares over and above the maximum fare already prescribed by the Government.

" (*b*) In view of the decision of the High Court that the first proviso to section 3 of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952, is not valid the Government have raised the maximum fares already prescribed by them under section 43 (1) (ii) of the Motor Vehicles Act by half pie per mile so as to cover the tax under the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952."